

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. - 6. (Cancelled).

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 4 wherein~~ In a UMTS Terrestrial Radio Access Network (UTRAN) having a plurality of Node B base stations, each Node B base station having has a selectively operable beamforming antenna and providing wireless communication services for mobile User Equipments (UEs) in a respective geographic coverage area that may or may not overlap with the geographic coverage areas of other of the Node B base stations, and a Radio Network Controller (RNC) connected to the Node B base stations, a method of handoff a wireless communication with a UE conducted via a first Node B base station to a second Node B base station further comprising:

detecting a handover trigger event during the UE's wireless communication via the first Node B base station;

transmitting an omnidirectional sounding pulse from the UE;

communicating information related to the detected sounding pulse to the RNC by each Node B base station detecting the sounding pulse;

selecting by the RNC the second Node B base station from the Node B base stations that detected the sounding pulse based on the communicated information;
and

continuing the UE's wireless communication via the selected second Node B base station; and

determining a relative location of the UE with respect to the beamforming antenna of the selected second Node B base station based on information related to the detected sounding pulse whereby the continuing of the UE's communication via the second Node B base station includes operating the selected Node B base station's antenna to form a communication beam for at least one dedicated channel covering a selected portion of the coverage area serviced by the second Node B base station that encompasses the determined relative location of the UE.

8.(Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 4 wherein~~ In a UMTS Terrestrial Radio Access Network (UTRAN) having a plurality of Node B base stations, each Node B base station providing wireless communication services for mobile User Equipments (UEs) in a respective geographic coverage area that may or may not overlap with the geographic coverage areas of other of the Node B base stations, and a Radio Network Controller (RNC) connected to the Node B base stations, a method of handoff a wireless communication with a UE conducted via a first Node B base station to a second Node B base station, where the mobile-unit UE has a selectively operable beamforming antenna, the method further comprising:

detecting a handover trigger event during the UE's wireless communication via the first Node B base station;

transmitting an omnidirectional sounding pulse from the UE;

communicating information related to the detected sounding pulse to the RNC by each Node B base station detecting the sounding pulse;

selecting by the RNC the second Node B base station from the Node B base stations that detected the sounding pulse based on the communicated information;
and

continuing the UE's wireless communication via the selected second Node B base station; and

determining a relative location of the second Node B base station with respect to the beamforming antenna of the ~~mobile-unit~~ UE based on information related to the detected sounding pulse whereby the continuing of the UE's communication via the second Node B base station includes operating the ~~mobile unit's~~ UE's antenna to form a communication beam toward the second Node B.

9. - 32. (Cancelled.)

33. ~~The method of claim 32 wherein~~ In a UMTS Terrestrial Radio Access Network (UTRAN) having a plurality of Node B base stations, each Node B base station having ~~has~~ a selectively operable beamforming antenna and providing wireless communication services in a respective geographic coverage area that may or may not overlap with the geographic coverage areas of other of the Node B base stations, a method for handoff of a wireless communication conducted by a communicating mobile User Equipment (UE) via a serving Node B base station to a handover Node B base station further comprising:

transmitting an omnidirectional sounding pulse from the communicating mobile UE during the wireless communication upon the occurrence of a triggering event;

directing a communication beam from Node B base stations detecting the sounding pulse towards the mobile UE;

selecting a handover Node B base station from the Node B base stations that detected the sounding pulse based on the communication beams received by the mobile UE;

continuing the wireless communication via the selected handover Node B base station; and.

determining a relative location of the UE with respect to the beamforming antenna of each sounding pulse detecting Node B base station based on information related to the detected sounding pulse whereby the directing of a communication beam includes operating the respective Node B base stations' antennas to form communication beams that each cover a selected portion of the coverage area serviced by the respective Node B base station that encompasses the relative location of the UE.

34. - 44. (Cancelled.)